

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 191340Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1044

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2886

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CT, HA, SG

SUBJECT: SENGHOR & BOKASSA TO VISIT HAITI IN 1976

1. CANADIAN CHARGE ADVISES THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL RELUCTANTLY CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SENEGALESE PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PRESIDENT JEAN-BEDEL BOKASSA WOULD VISIT HAITI IN 1976. BOKASSA VISIT STILL AT EARLY PLANNING STAGE, BUT SENGHOR WILL MAKE THREE DAY VISIT IN FEBRUARY (PRECISE DATES UNKNOWN).

2. COMMENT - SENGHOR HAS A CONTINUING CULTURAL INTEREST IN HAITI, HAVING SENT HIS NEPHEW, MAURICE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SENEGAL'S NATIONAL THEATER, TO PORT AU PRINCE ON A VISIT IN OCT 1974, AND AS RECENTLY AS JULY 1975 WRITING A LETTER, REPRINTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, IN PRAISE OF CHRISTOPHE CHARLES' BOOK ENTITLED "DIX NOUVEAUX POETES ET ECRIVAINS HAITIENS". FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY EDNER BRUTUS IS REPORTEDLY AT WITS END TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT APPROPRIATE CEREMONIES CAN BE ORGANIZED FOR SENGHOR FOR AN ENTIRE THREE DAYS.

3. IT IS LESS CLEAR WHAT ATTRACTS BOKASSA TO HAITI, EXCEPT POSSIBLY THAT HE AND JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER ARE BOTH

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PRESIDENTS-FOR-LIFE. A SPECIAL HAITIAN MINISTERIAL DELEGATION

DID VISIT THE CAR, ALONG WITH SENEGAL, LIBERIA, IVORY COAST
AND CHAD, IN 1973, AT WHICH TIME BOKASSA WAS OFFICIALLY
INVITED TO VISIT HAITI.
ISHAM

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